

SHEILA NIAZ

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Norton Rose Fulbright, LLP

Associate, Litigation

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 2024 - Present

- ▶ Represent clients in complex intellectual property, product liability, consumer protection, and class-action matters. Draft dispositive and discovery motions, appellate briefs, and trial filings; manage fact and expert discovery; advise on risk management and regulatory compliance. Leverage prior engineering experience to analyze technical evidence and expert reports.

U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota

St. Paul, Minnesota

Judicial Law Clerk to Judge Wilhelmina M. Wright, Chief Judge Patrick J. Schiltz Feb. 2023 - July 2024

- ▶ Managed civil and criminal dockets; drafted substantive orders, recommendations, and bench memoranda; conducted legal research on constitutional, statutory, and procedural issues.

Prior Experience:

- ▶ Associate, Greenberg Traurig LLP (IP litigation & patent prosecution)
- ▶ Associate Patent Attorney, Merchant & Gould P.A. (IP litigation & patent prosecution)
- ▶ Software Engineer, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.

EDUCATION

Mitchell Hamline School of Law, Saint Paul, MN

May 2020

Juris Doctor; Certificate in Patent Law (Bar: MN, 2020; U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, patent practitioner)

- ▶ Editor-in-Chief, Vol 11.2; Executive Editor, Vol 11.1 - Cybaris IP Law Review
- ▶ Semifinalist, AIPLA Giles S. Rich Patent Moot Court Competition

University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, MN

May 2017

B.A., Computer Science

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- ▶ Treasurer, Hon. Jimmie V. Reyna Intellectual Property American Inn of Court, 2023-Present; Member 2019-Present
- ▶ Eighth Circuit Representative, Board of Directors, Younger Lawyers Division, Federal Bar Association, 2025-Present
- ▶ Board Member, Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association, 2024-Present
- ▶ Board Member, Minnesota Intellectual Property Law Association, 2022-Present; Secretary 2025-Present
- ▶ Board Member, ChIPs Twin Cities Chapter, 2021-Present
- ▶ Chair, Intellectual Property Practice Group, Minnesota Chapter, Federal Bar Association, 2022-2025
- ▶ Volunteer Docent, Minnesota Institute of Art, 2025-Present

HONORS & AWARDS

- ▶ Attorney of the Year, Minnesota Lawyer, 2025
- ▶ Notable Diverse Leader in Law, Twin Cities Business, 2024
- ▶ Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, Merchant & Gould P.A., 2021
- ▶ North Star Pro Bono Lawyer, Minnesota State Bar Association, 2020-2024

SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- ▶ Speaker, "Greenwashing Under Scrutiny: Navigating Legal Risks in Environmental Claims," Federal Bar Association, November 2025
- ▶ Panelist, "Muslims in Law," University of Minnesota Law School, November 2025
- ▶ Speaker, "IPR Estoppel: What Judges Need to Know Now," U.S. District Court - District of Minnesota Judicial In-Court Seminar, September 2025
- ▶ Panelist, "Diversity in the Courtroom: What Every Trial Lawyer Should Know," Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association, May 2025